Utah Department of Transportation Environmental Process Manual of Instruction









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Introduction

The UDOT Environmental Process Manual of Instruction provides guidance for the preparation of environmental analysis and documentation for federally-funded and state-funded transportation projects. Projects that are funded in whole or in part with federal funds or have major federal actions must follow the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as well as related federal and state environmental regulations. This manual has been prepared as a guidance document for use in understanding and applying UDOT's environmental process and is supplemental to applicable laws, regulations, and agency-issued guidance. It is important to check with UDOT Environmental Services for the most recent policies and procedures.

Organization of the Manual

Chapter 1, Environmental Regulations Overview, provides background information on the federal laws and regulations that the Department must follow for transportation projects and gives an overview of the environmental evaluation process. The chapter also discusses the early steps in identifying and developing a project before an environmental study is initiated.

Chapter 2, Roles and Responsibilities, describes the roles and responsibilities of Region and Central environmental staff who conduct and participate in environmental reviews for projects.

Chapter 3, Environmental Documentation, provides general guidance for the preparation of CEs, EAs, Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Draft EISs, Final EISs, Records of Decision (ROD), and State Environmental Studies (SES). For each type of document, the chapter presents a brief overview of the applicability of the class of action, the required and suggested content and format of the documentation.

Chapter 4, Public and Agency Involvement, describes effective means of public and agency involvement for UDOT projects as required by federal and state laws.

Chapter 5, Project Impact Analyses, defines the types of impacts (direct, indirect, and cumulative) that could result from a project and discusses the individual technical studies and analyses that are required for the environmental documentation.

Chapter 6, Environmental Permits, describes the types of permits that might be required for a UDOT project.

Chapter 7, Mitigation Commitments and Coordination, provides guidance as mitigation commitments are developed, communicated and tracked from the environmental study phase to the construction and maintenance phases.